からくりサーカス

18

藤田和日郎

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世界に破滅をもたらす自動人形と、人形破壊者"しろがね"との決戦に、自動人形の本拠「真夜中のサーカス」は、血で赤く染まっていた。

果てしなく続く闘いの果てに、災いの元凶・フランシーヌ人形を、鳴海は破壊できるのか……!?ご存じ、超熱血機巧活劇、死闘に次ぐ死闘の第18巻であります。

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

仕事場がらくりマンガ

新人洗礼

by つぶやきかずひろ

※作者注　英に映画のタイトルです。
ランボーは「3」までありま

プラネタリウムを見に行きました。
いいもんだなァ。ゆっくり安らぐなァ。
あれがベガか…あれがアルタイル…
サバラの夜もこれくらい星が見えるんだべかねー。…ナルミ達の夜はもう明けた頃だね。ナルミのピンチをまた始めなきゃな。
血を流さねば！　男の戦いはかくあるべしというような凄絶なヤツを…他の登場人物にもラクはさせるまい…よしよし…
はっ!?　アタシ何考エテタンデスカ?
おぉぉプラネタリウムまできてよおぉ。

藤田和日郎

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

ブカブカ　ドンドン。さぁさ御様、お待ちかね。
本巻もまた、盛りだくさんの演目をば、お届けいたしましょう。
クランシータとルシールの秘められた関係に、本サーカス、初のゆ性タッグの戦闘シーン。ナルミが他人には何歳に見えるか…なんてコトがちょろりと入りこむのは御愛敬。
脇中心へと迫りき、戦いは新局面を迎えまする——
「からくりサーカス」第18巻、鹿場の御見物を願います。

●AD／伊波光司　●口絵カバーデザイン／益子典子＋ベイブリッジ・スタジオ　●カバーイラスト／藤田和日郎

18
藤田和日郎（ふじたかずひろ）
からくりサーカス
Le Cirque de Karakuri

★前巻までのあらすじ★

ついにたどり着いた自動人形の本拠「真夜中のサーカス」！

鳴海・ルシール・ミンシアの三人は、世界中からサハラ砂漠に集結した人形破壊者〝しろがね〟達と合流し、テントを包囲。

しろがねの使命は〝明日の真夜中までヤツらを足止めすること〟だが、フランシーヌ人形と最強の自動人形「最古の四人」が待ち受けるテントでは、地獄の舞台が用意されていた。

互いに20人ずつ選出し、5対5で戦って生き残りの数を競うゲーム。

しかし、しろがね一〇達のいとも簡単に命を投げ出して戦うさまに、驚きと怒りを感じる鳴海は、強敵相手に圧倒的な強さで勝利……!!

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藤田和日郎

Karakuri～Final Act

Act 11 Women

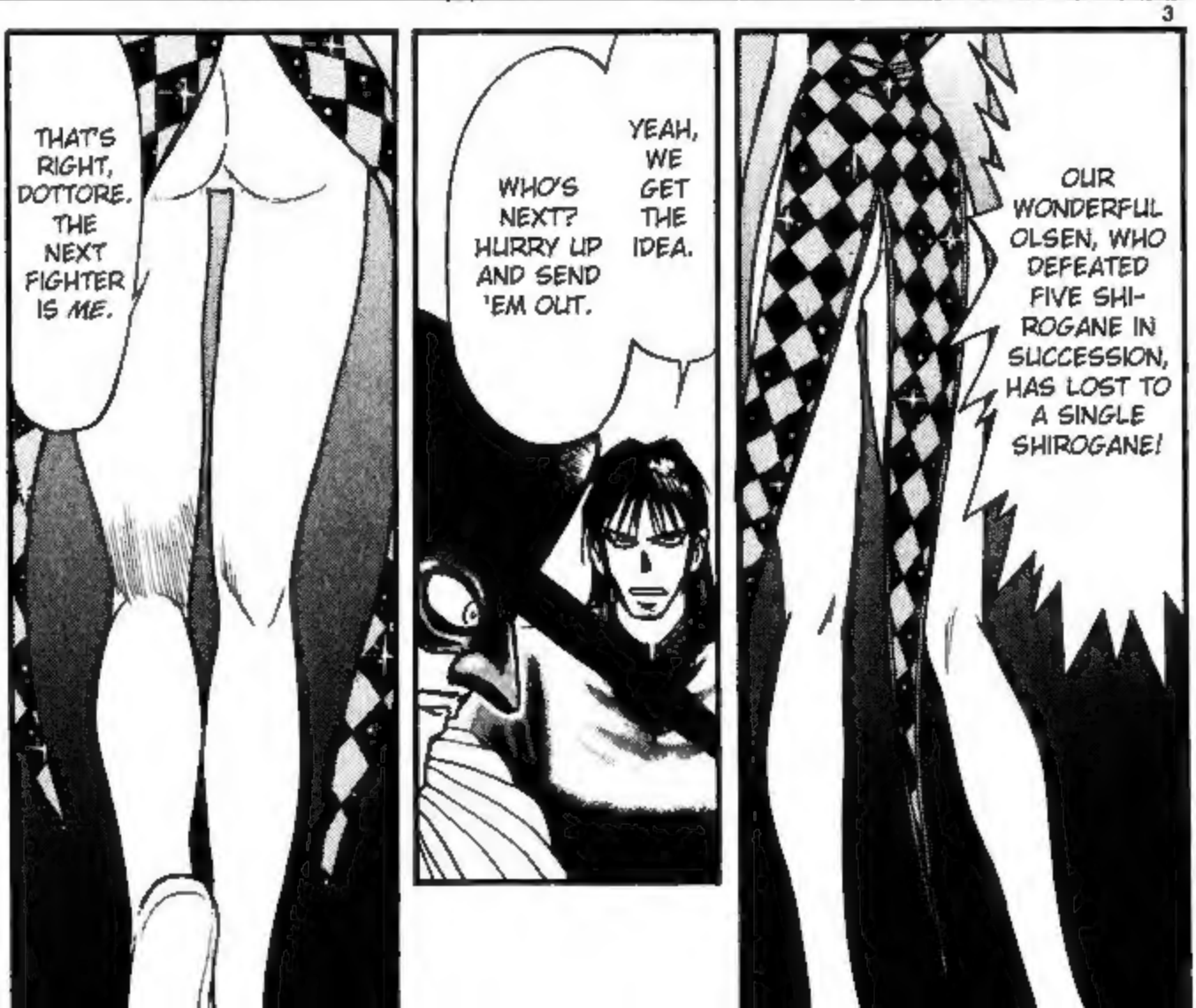
2

CLAP
CLAP

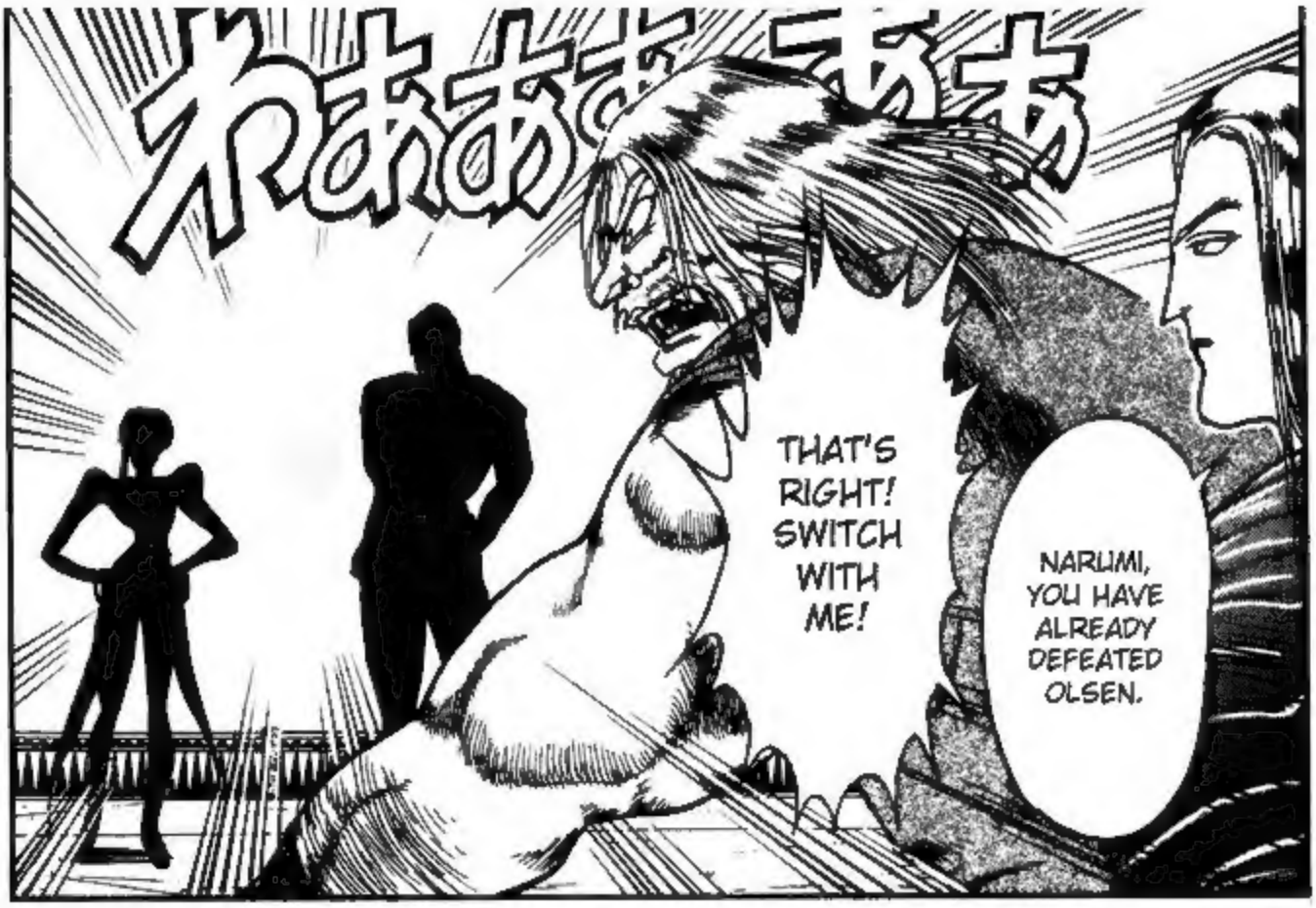
OH HO ...

LOOKS LIKE HE PULLED IT OFF.
A SPLENDID ONE, AT THAT...
WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT. I GUESS THAT'S A WIN.

あ
あ
THE WINNER OF THE FIRST MATCH OF THE SECOND ROUND IS KATOU NARUMI, WHO HAS DEFEATED MERRY-GO-ROUND OLSEN...!!
BRAVO, NARUMI!


OUR WONDERFUL OLSEN, WHO DEFEATED FIVE SHIROGANE IN SUCCESSION, HAS LOST TO A SINGLE SHIROGANE!
YEAH, WE GET THE IDEA.
WHO'S NEXT? HURRY UP AND SEND 'EM OUT.
THAT'S RIGHT, DOTTORE. THE NEXT FIGHTER IS *ME*.

CO-
LUM-
BINE!
HOHO... THIS IS UNUSUAL, COLUM-BINE.
YOU USUALLY TRY TO AVOID BOTHERSOME ACTIVITIES LIKE THIS, DON'T YOU?
4
UFUFU... USUALLY.

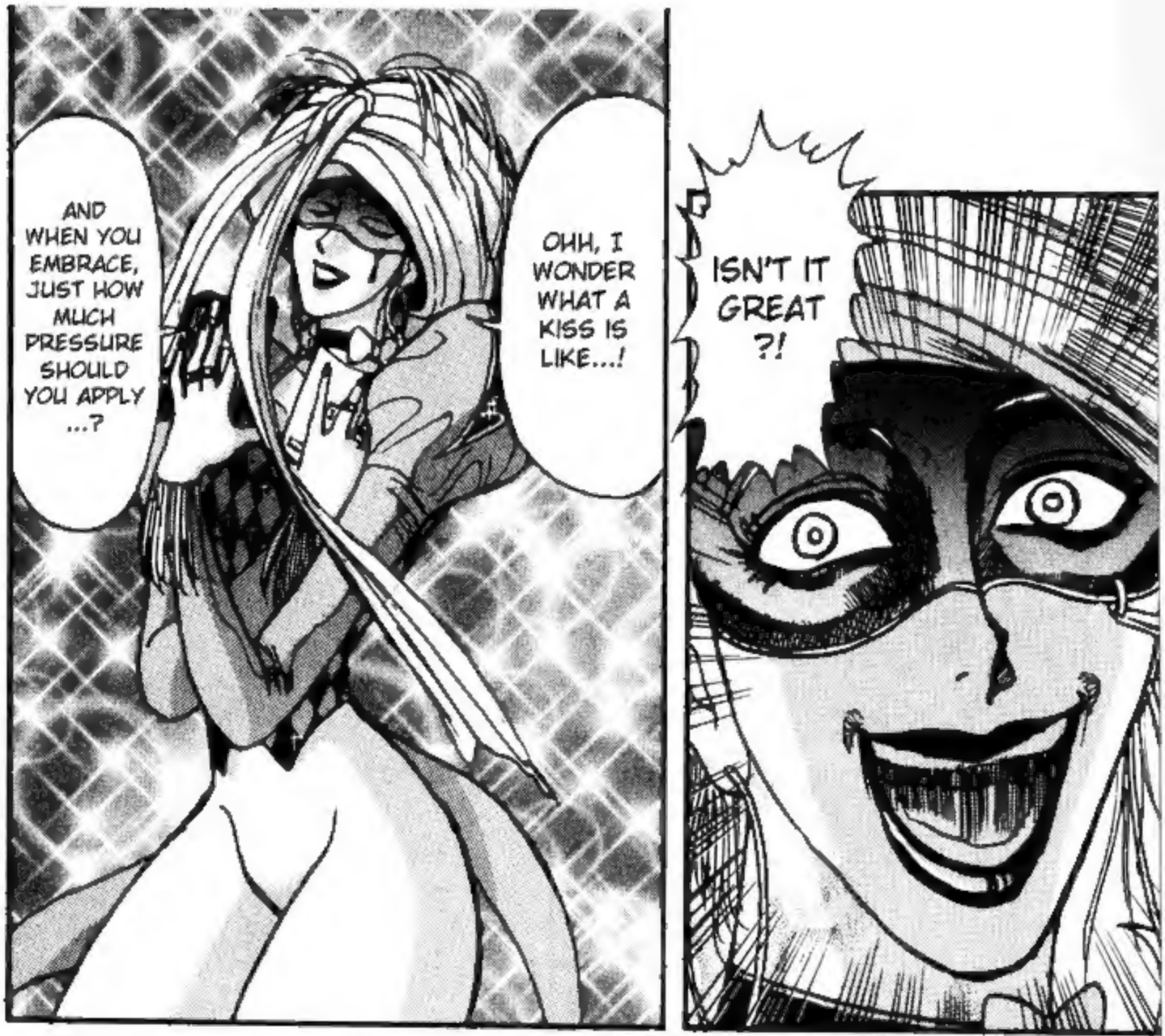

NARUMI, YOU HAVE ALREADY DEFEATED OLSEN.
THAT'S RIGHT! SWITCH WITH ME!

NO... I'LL HANDLE THIS.

NO ONE WOULD EVER TEAR THEM APART AGAIN ...
AS THE RAIN FELL AROUND THEM LIKE A WATERFALL, THE PAIR EMBRACED EACH OTHER TIGHTLY AND EXCHANGED A KISS.
HERE, LISTEN TO THIS.

I JUST ADORE THE ROMANCE NOVELS THAT YOU HUMANS WRITE.

YOU KNOW ...
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!


AND WHEN YOU EMBRACE, JUST HOW MUCH PRESSURE SHOULD YOU APPLY ...?
OHH, I WONDER WHAT A KISS IS LIKE...!
ISN'T IT GREAT ?!

I'VE TRIED IT OUT, BUT DOLL LIPS JUST GET ALL CRACKED AND FRACTURED.
OH, NO, IT DOESN'T WORK WITH BEINGS WHO CAN'T FEEL LOVE.
TCH... JUST GO PICK SOME DOLL TO DO IT WITH!

LET'S GO, AL-READY !
I DON'T KNOW! GOD!
ELLIOT

I AM A PERFECT AUTOMATON, BUT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THINGS LIKE...
WARMTH, OR THE SENSATION OF SKIN... THAT'S A SLIGHT WEAKNESS, DON'T YOU THINK?

I'LL FINISH IT WITH ONE BLOW!
THIS COLUM-BINE IS ONE OF LES QUATRE PION-NIERS.
7
CHOPPING FIST!

YOU'RE CALLED NARUMI, RIGHT?
LLLICK
I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU.

YOU WERE AMAZING WHEN YOU BEAT OLSEN.
WHEN I SAW THAT, I THOUGHT... "IF I WERE TO BE *HELD* BY A HUMAN MAN, IT SHOULD BE THIS ONE."
IT DIDN'T ...
HAVE ANY EFFECT ...

SAY, COME ON AND HUG ME! GIVE IT A TRY!
QUIT SCREWING AROUND!
ドカ

9

EVEN-TUALLY, THOUGH, LITTLE BY LITTLE ...!

THE COUPLE'S FIRST MEETING IS ALWAYS AWFUL IN ROMANCE NOVELS, TOO.
UFUFU! AMAZING, AMAZING!
WHO'D WANNA HUG YOU?!

BUT IF YOU TANGLE WITH ME...
YOU'LL DIE.
COLUM-BINE HAS BEEN DONE IN! THE WINNER IS NARUMI THE SHIRO-GANE!
しゃん
YOU IDIOT! WE'RE STILL FIGHTING, AREN'T WE?!

YOU'RE INCORRI-GIBLE, COLUM-BINE.
SO LONG!
UFUFU-FUFU.

...HEH HEH... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT DOLL ...?
SHE'S JUST... SCREWING AROUND...
YOU'RE COVERED WITH SWEAT.
YOU SHOULD DRY OFF, NARUMI.
HUH ...?
...I AM?
MR. NARUMI CERTAINLY IS A MYSTERIOUS PERSON.
.....
WHATEVER SHAPE THEY MAY HAVE HAD, YOU'VE FOUGHT TWO OPPONENTS.
ISN'T THAT ENOUGH FOR NOW?
YOU CAN LEAVE THE REST TO US.

I COME FROM A DESERT NATION.
I WAS BORN IN AN OASIS TO THE NORTH, AND RAISED IN AN OASIS TO THE SOUTH.
UFUFU.
WHERE DO YOU SEE ANY MYSTERY IN THAT KENPO IDIOT ...?!
HUH...?! YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT, FATIMA?

THE WOMEN ALWAYS SEND THEM OFF WITH A SMILE, THOUGH WE KNOW THAT THEY MAY NOT COME BACK.
DURING TRIBAL DISPUTES, OUR MEN HAVE NO REGRETS WHEN THEY MUST PASS INTO THE FORM OF A CLOUD, OR THE SANDS OF THE DESERT.

R-RIGHT.
MISS MING-XIA, YOU HAVE NOT BECOME A SHIROGANE, CORRECT?
SURE YOU'RE NOT IMAGI-NING IT?

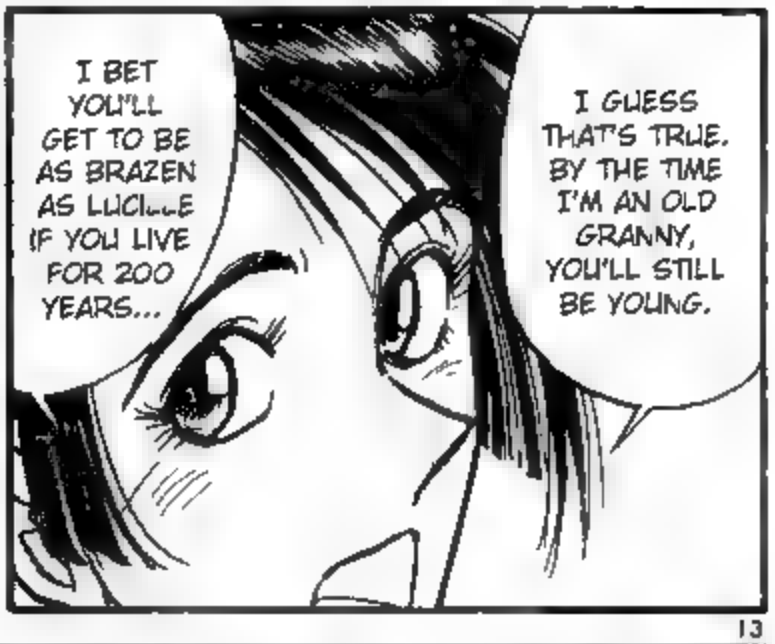
SOMEHOW, MR. NARUMI FEELS THE SAME...
AS THOSE MEN FROM MY TRIBE.

AMONG THEM SEVERAL MEN WHO TOLD ME THAT THEY WANTED TO SPEND THEIR LIVES WITH ME.

IN THAT TIME, THE ORDINARY MEN OF MY TRIBE HAVE EITHER GROWN OLD OR DIED.
FOR 35 YEARS, I HAVE BEEN PURSUING THE AUTOMATA AND DESTROYING THEM.

SHIROGANE, WHO AGE ONLY ONE YEAR FOR EVERY FIVE THEY LIVE ...
CAN NEVER WALK ALONGSIDE AN ORDINARY HUMAN AND SHARE THE SAME LIFE.
.....

DO YOU THINK WE SHIROGANE ARE COMPLETELY LACKING IN SENTIMENT?
MM, WELL, JUDGING FROM LUCILLE... AREN'T YOU?


I GUESS THAT'S TRUE. BY THE TIME I'M AN OLD GRANNY, YOU'LL STILL BE YOUNG.
I BET YOU'LL GET TO BE AS BRAZEN AS LUCILLE IF YOU LIVE FOR 200 YEARS...

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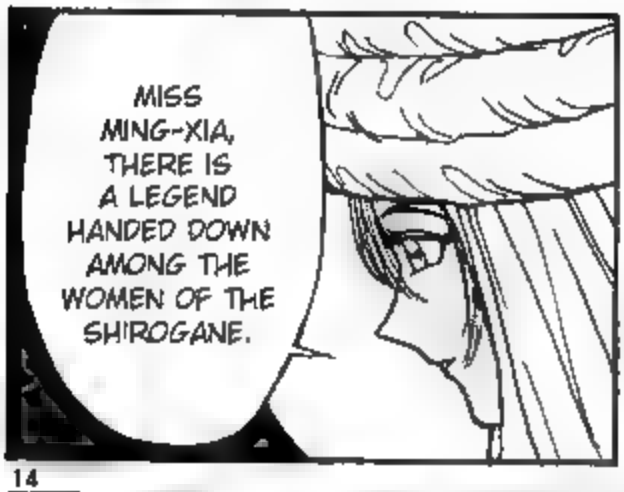
...WE STILL... HAVE HEARTS.
THERE ARE SOME WHO GIVE UP...
AND OTHERS WHO BURY THEMSELVES IN THEIR MISSION TO DESTROY THE DOLLS...

A... PARTNER ...? YOU MEAN YOU WANT MING-HAI TO...?

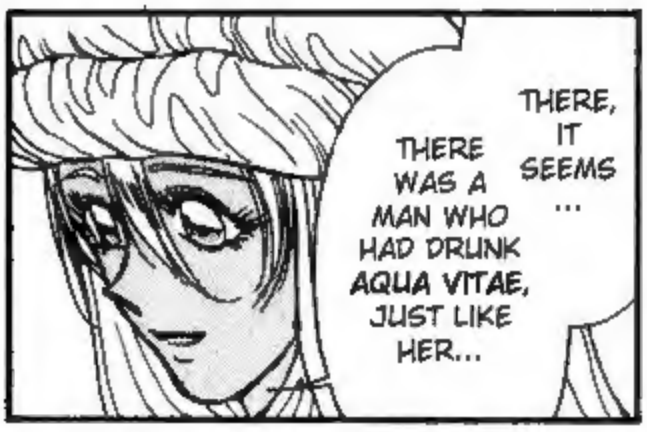

MISS MING-XIA, THERE IS A LEGEND HANDED DOWN AMONG THE WOMEN OF THE SHIROGANE.

BUT STILL, SOMEWHERE IN OUR HEARTS, I BELIEVE WE ALL WISH FOR A PARTNER ... TO WALK WITH US THROUGH LIFE.

LONG, LONG AGO, SHE CONTRACTED ZONAPHA SYNDROME ALONG WITH MADAME LUCILLE.
LUCILLE'S DAUGHTER...?

MADEMOISELLE ANGELINA.
THE LEGEND OF MADAME LUCILLE'S DAUGHTER ...

THE SOURCE OF AQUA VITAE, THE SOFT STONE, WAS HIDDEN WITHIN HER BODY.
HOWEVER, FOR HER, THERE WAS A STILL MORE TERRIBLE FATE IN STORE.
AND BECAME A SHIROGANE THANKS TO THE AQUA VITAE...
YES. IN A SMALL ISLAND NATION CALLED JAPAN.
...IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT BE LURED IN AND DESTROYED, MLLE. ANGELINA PUT HERSELF IN HARM'S WAY BY ACTING AS BAIT.
THE AUTOMATA WISH TO BECOME HUMAN BY DRINKING AQUA VITAE. FOR A LONG TIME...
NO ONE KNOWS. BUT, WHILE I AM NOT PRIVY TO THE DETAILS ...
HUH...? WHY?
HOW-EVER, ONE DAY, SHE VANISHED.
OH ...
SO THEY FOUND HER!
ABOUT 30 YEARS LATER, MLLE. ANGELINA'S LOCATION WAS DIS-COVERED.


THERE, IT SEEMS ...
THERE WAS A MAN WHO HAD DRUNK AQUA VITAE, JUST LIKE HER...

MING-HAI'S COUNTRY ...
JAPAN ...

AND SHE HAD MARRIED HIM.

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YOU'VE GOTTA GIVE IT UP! HE'S GOT NO BRAINS! HE'S GOT NO MONEY ...!!
SO YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH MING-HAI?

OH... I SHOULD HAVE ASKED THIS FIRST.

IN THAT CASE... BEING A SHIROGANE MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A BAD THING...
IF YOU CAN LIVE FOR A LONG TIME WITH THE MAN YOU LOVE...

WOW, GOOD FOR HER ...!
YOU KNOW, MISS MING-XIA, I ADMIRE HER VERY MUCH.

MISS MING-XIA...
WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS FOR MR. NARUMI?

OH...! D-DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
HE'S SURE TO FALL HEAD OVER HEELS FOR YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU'RE TOTALLY CUTE, FATIMA!!

IS THAT SO...!
NOTHING MUCH... HE'S LIKE A TROUBLE-SOME LITTLE BROTHER, I GUESS ...
.....

BUT I'M BEING SILLY... I'VE BEEN GOING ON AND ON, WITHOUT EVEN CONSIDERING MR. NARUMI'S FEELINGS...

YES, IT MUST BE.
OH, LOOK. THAT'S GOTTA BE WHERE LUCILLE IS, RIGHT?
OF COURSE! ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SAY I'M CHEERING YOU ON.

YES.
ALMENDRA, ARE YOU SURE OF WHAT YOU JUST SAID?
IT SEEMS OUR GUESTS ARE HERE, LUCILLE.

A WOMAN OF YOUR BLOOD, LUCILLE.
THE HUMAN GIRL WHO SERVED AS THE MODEL FOR THE DOLL FRANCINE ...
SHE WAS BORN ...

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

pg. 15: The word Columbine uses for holding or embracing (抱かれる) can also mean having sex with.
pg.16: Likewise, the word やる, which has been used a lot for the past few chapters, can mean to do something, to kill/harm/defeat someone, or to have sex with someone. In this chapter, it starts to take on a double meaning. Basically what she's saying in Japanese (私とやったら，あなた死んじゃうよ) is, "If you have sex with me/try to kill me, you'll die."

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.